NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Bills for the consolidation of the various Acts relating to water-works, gas-works, public undertakings, and the construction or regulation of markets, &c., have been introduced to the House of Commons by Mr. Strutt, Sir George Grey, and Mr. Parker.——A licence, or faculty, has been decreed in the Consistory Court for taking down the ancient parish church of St. Nicholas, Loughton, and applying the money arising from the sale of materials towards the completion of the new church of St. John the Baptist, at Loughton, consecrated on 4th of November last.——Orders have been issued for the erection of a new military prison, in lieu of the one at Southsea Castle.——The Newport Water-works Company have just landed a large cast-iron tank at the town quay for a reservoir, and as an earnest of their intention to proceed with their beneficial measures as early as possible.——A bill has been brought into the Commons by Mr. Ward, Admiral Dundas, and Captain Berkeley, to empower the Commissioners of the Treasury to purchase land for the purposes of the projected harbour of refuge and breakwater at the north-eastern side of the isle of Portland. The expense will be defrayed from the 30,000*l.* already granted by Parliament for harbours of refuge.——Mr. Dredge has undertaken to erect a substantial bridge from Weston-super-Mare to the island of Birnbeck, for the sum of 10,000*l.*——It is now understood, that the new county gaol at Winchester will be commenced immediately. The contract is said to be taken by a London builder. The work will be very extensive, and afford much employment during the summer. ——During the absence of the royal family from Windsor, many repairs, alterations, and improvements are to be made in and about the castle and its appurtenances. It is said, also, that the drains of the castle are to undergo another inspection and improvement in the course of the present summer, and that another corps of sappers and miners have been ordered up from Woolwich for the purpose. The new passage, in hand so long, from the basement story of the Brunswick Tower through and under the eastern terrace into the orangery, and so on into the Slopes, is now nearly completed. This passage was commenced many months ago, in order that her Majesty might pass from the interior of the castle to walk in the Home Park, without being crowded upon by the people, who almost fill the parterre, and the terrace inclosing it, on "public days." There are also many minor alterations and repairs proposed, which, it is understood, will all be completed before the end of the present spring. ——The question of erecting a new jail for the county of Bedford has been deferred for six months. The proposed building would cost, it is said, about 40,000*l.*, though estimated at a less sum. The original contract for the new model prison, which has been building in the adjoining county of Buckingham, and is fitted to hold about 200 prisoners, was 40,000*l.*; but the extras amounted to 7,000*l.* or 8,000*l.*, and the fittings-up to about 5,000*l.* more.—— A report on the sanative state of the town of Leicester, by "the medical sanatory officers" of the borough, lays bare the numerous sinks of corruption in the shape of filthy and overflowing cesspools, noxious drains, accumulations of night-soil, large uncovered privy-holes, pig-styes and their accumulated litter, slaughter houses, &c., as the evident foci of fever pervading the borough. The prime necessity, too, of a complete system of drainage, flushing, and trapping, is pointed out, although it is admitted that the very large area which the town covers in proportion to the population—*ceteris paribus*, in itself an important advantage, —presents an expensive obstacle in the way of the accomplishment of so desirable an object. Hoping, however, that a Towns Drainage Bill may speedily compel its realization, the officers suggest the adoption of measures of "a bold and innovating character," for the thorough suppression of the other nuisances, with the noxious miasmata, from which the town and its human life are defiled and injured. ——Sir George Grey has refused to sanction the appointment of the medical officer, at Liverpool, under the sanatory bill, not in reference to the fitness of the officer (Dr. Duncan) himself, but because the Home Office is decidedly of opinion that the medical officer should devote his whole time to the duties of the situation, and refrain altogether from private practice. Of course his salary ought to correspond to these circumstances. ——A correspondent of the *Doncaster Gazette* timeously suggests the propriety of considering the proper ventilation of the various rooms, courts, &c., of the new "Guildhall," now fairly begun. "I beg," he says, "to suggest an inexpensive, and, I think, an effective plan for obtaining so desirable an object. In the ceiling of each room there should be apertures— the number depending upon the size of the room—communicating with wooden trunks or spouts to be carried into air flues; such flues to be left in the thickness of the walls, or to be carried up as high or alongside the chimney shafts, and of course communicating with the outer air. The air trunks should be placed between the ceilings and the floors for the lower rooms, and for the upper rooms they should rest upon the ceiling joists. The fresh air to be admitted into the lower parts of the rooms through numerous openings in the plinths, covered with perforated metallic plates, which might be closed when required. By these simple means, the vitiated atmosphere would pass through the trunks and escape by the air flues, and a free circulation of uncontaminated air would thus be carried on, without any inconvenience to the persons assembled." Not so easily as he thinks, perhaps.—— The restoration of the chapel on Wakefield-bridge is progressing, it is said, satisfactorily, but must soon be discontinued, unless a further sum be subscribed. The tracery in the north, south, and east windows, with a cornice over them, has been put up. The estimated cost is 2,000*l.*, exclusive of contingencies, and not half of that sum has yet been subscribed.——It is proposed to form a company in Halifax, in 500 shares of 20*l.* each, for the purpose of building, in some central spot, a Town Hall, and other public buildings, in which may be concentrated the different boards and offices constituting the town's government, accommodation for public companies, &c.——We learn, says the *Glasgow Post*, that the heaviest shaft ever made in Scotland has just been completed at the works of the Monkland Iron and Steel Company. It weighs upwards of 10½ tons, and was made at the Moffat forge of the Monkland works, under the superintendence of Mr. John M'Ara.——At a full meeting of the operative joiners of Edinburgh, lately held in the Roman Eagle Hall, Lawnmarket, Mr. John Connacher in the chair, it was unanimously agreed that, in consequence of the present high price of provisions, and advance of rents, the joiner's wages should be 4½d. per hour in place of 4d., as formerly.

ANCIENT CHURCH OF ST. MARY AT DONCASTER.

Sir,—Seeing in your valuable journal an account of the proceedings of the Doncaster corporation, with respect to the ancient church they discovered in excavating for the foundations of the new Townhall, I cannot allow the matter to pass by unnoticed. There are now, alas! but too few specimens of our early ecclesiastical architecture, without destroying those we are so fortunate as to discover. Archæology is, I am happy to say, becoming more and more valued; but it would seem that the good people of Doncaster are semi-barbarians, and that they have not the power to comprehend the value of their discovery. In their eyes, perhaps, these ruins appear as mere misshapen masses of crumbling stone; for in spite of the petitions they have received from some of the leading inhabitants of the West Riding, and from the Archæological Institute, they must needs bury their church again in oblivion, and return the consoling answer, "that working drawings shall be made" of it. That this may be the last gothicism of which our country may be guilty, is the sincere hope of your humble servant,

James Stuart Wortley.

Winchester, Feb. 28th, 1847.

*** It has been very appropriately suggested, that the interesting ruins of St. Mary's Church be transplanted into the grounds of the projected cemetery, which must ere long be provided, and where these unique old Norman ruins of a defunct church might, by restoration, be converted into the chapel requisite for the ritual of the dead.

PROJECTED PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN SHEFFIELD.

We mentioned lately the proposal to erect a building of considerable magnitude in Sheffield, to contain a capacious hall, athenæum, &c. This, however, is but one of many projects now on foot for the improvement of this important town.

Memorials have been presented to the town council praying them, under the Act for establishing museums of art, to take early measures for the purchase of land, and the erection of a suitable building for that purpose. The memorialists justly urge, that it would have the effect of greatly extending the sphere of usefulness of the School of Design, would afford facilities for the *collective display in one building of all the chief Sheffield manufactures*, contribute to the recreation and instruction of the great mass of the population, conduce to the increase of knowledge and refinement of taste among the artisans, and prove an attraction to strangers, and a great ornament to the town.

It is to be hoped that the prayer of the memorial will be carried out forthwith.

New markets of considerable extent are also to be erected on a site bounded by the old Haymarket, the river Sheaf, Dixon-lane, and Castle Folds. The plan comprises three covered avenues, ranging from the Haymarket to the space in front of the Corn Exchange, with three entrances at each end. There will be two cross avenues and entrances in Dixon-lane and Castle Folds. The building will be in the Italian style, covered with an iron roof, and lighted by skylights. Its length will be 300 feet, and its width 120 feet.*

It is intended to erect a fountain in the centre of the open market ground, and the campanile, or clock turret, originally intended to finish the façade of the Corn Exchange, is also to be erected. Messrs. Weightman and Hadfield are the architects.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

The contractors, Messrs. Thornton, who, about five or six years ago, were expelled by the engineers of the Northern and Eastern Railway Company from some works on the line (now united with the Eastern Counties) near Broxbourne, for which they were contractors, have just had an award by arbitration, in a long-pending litigation, pronounced in their favour to the extent, it is said, of about 15,000*l.*, besides costs. A very large counter-claim was negatived by the arbiter, who had been appointed at the suggestion of the railway company themselves.—— The directors of the Great Western, we understand, have declined all the tenders made for the construction of the Hereford and Gloucester line, the contracts for which were lately advertised.——The works on the Gloucester and Forest of Dean will be forthwith commenced. An immense impetus, it is expected, will be given to the trade of Gloucester by the exportation of the almost inexhaustible resources of the Forest of Dean.——The Post-office authorities and the South-Western Railway Company have arranged for the conveyance of the mail to and from Southampton, Gosport, Portsmouth, and towns adjacent to that line, three times a-day. Similar arrangements are in progress with the other railways leaving the metropolis.——The viaduct over the river Barrow, on the line of the Great Southern and Western Railway, at Monasterevan, has been opened. It is nearly 500 feet in length, and consists of a malleable iron framework resting on ten slight stone piers. The width between the parapets is 25 feet. It is the fourth bridge of the kind which has been constructed by Sir John Macneill.——On Monday week, at Heaton Norris, says a contemporary, a detached waggon was caught by the wind, and went at a rapid and accelerated speed down the incline towards Manchester. Steam, seeing this, employed his full power in competition with the wind, and commenced a chase, with his train propelled before him, to recover the waggon so surreptitiously abducted. The odds, however, were too great, and old Boreas was victorious, having reached the winning post at Levenshulme in gallant style, and fairly distanced his grunting antagonist.——In accordance with the adver-

* The dimensions of the Green Market at Newcastle are 336 feet by 78 feet.

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